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SEGAL | DOGTOWN

# MAD RIVER UNION

VOL. 7, No. 31 ❖ 10 PAGES ❖ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020 ❖ EST. 2013 ❖ \$1



**STREETSIDE SERVICE** Efforts to implement safe social distancing to reduce the spread of coronavirus include local restaurants' delivering meals ordered online and serving them curbside, as with Arcata's Plaza Grill, left. See more at [visitarcata.com](http://visitarcata.com) and [doordash.com](http://doordash.com). Right, the city-organized tent campground in the parking lot at Seventh and G streets. Campers previously at the Community Center have moved there and to a similar installation at the Transit Center. LEFT PHOTO VIA PLAZA GRILL; RIGHT PHOTO BY MATT FILAR | UNION



**NEW AND DIFFERENT** Left, Max the dog is good to go with the new one-way trail signs at Trinidad Head. Inset, a sign at the Arcata Marsh (see page 3). Middle left, a Marsh bench placed off limits with an elaborate tape-and-barrier sculpture and gilded with a fully enjoyed bottle of Crown Royal Whiskey, bursting with smooth, bold vanilla flavor. Right, Lil Miss Mia's chicken farm in Eureka provides eggs at \$5 a dozen. Inset, orders are available in a mailbox, with a jar for payment. PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT BY TAMI TRUMP, KLH | UNION, AND CHRISTINA THOMPSON



## McK CSD loses jobs, funds, stays busy during crisis

**Jack Durham**  
MAD RIVER UNION

MCKINLEYVILLE – Everything is canceled or on hold.

That pretty much sums up the state of the McKinleyville Community Services District Parks and Recreation Department.

The McKinleyville Recreation Advisory Committee held a Zoom meeting April 16 and received updates on recreation programs, the recreation budget, a proposed skate park and a BMX track.

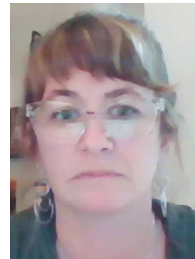
Recreation Director Lesley Frisbee informed the committee that all recreation programs are canceled and it is not known when they will resume. All part-time recreation staff have been laid off or are not being hired. That's about 25 to 50 jobs, depending on the time of year.

All seven full-time recreation staff are now working in support of the district's sewer and water departments, and are continuing to maintain park facilities.

"We're staying busy," Frisbee said.

The district has refunded \$13,000 that people had paid for programs and

**MCSD ❖ PAGE 2**



**Leslie Frisbee**

## Winkler rings alarm over grocery safety, urges masking



**Arcata Mayor Michael Winkler**

**Kevin L. Hoover**  
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA – The Arcata City Council renewed its declaration of emergency regarding the coronavirus pandemic Monday, April 13, something it must do every two weeks as long as the crisis continues. It also heard a report from City Manager Karen Diemer on crisis-related actions the city is taking.

Meanwhile, over the weekend county officials reported Humboldt's count of COVID-19 patients having plateaued at 52.

The council was also told of a coronavirus initiatives in the planning stage. One is the waiver of penalties and interest charges on Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT, a 10 percent bed tax) on stays at Arcata lodging facilities. Diemer said lo-

**MASKING ❖ PAGE 2**

## Corona calms fire calls

**Jack Durham**  
MAD RIVER UNION  
ARCATA/MCKINLEYVILLE – The Arcata Fire District has seen a drop in calls since Humboldt's shelter-in-place order when into effect March 19.

Arcata Fire Chief Justin McDonald told the AFD Board of Directors at a meeting April 14 that the total calls for March were 253 with more than half of them for rescues and emergency medical assistance. The monthly average is about 300 calls, he said.

### Pandemic precautions

The fire district – which serves McKinleyville, Arcata, Bayside and Manila – has taken precautions to protect its staff and the public from the coronavirus.

All district facilities are closed to the public. The district has



**Arcata Fire District Boardmember Randy Mendosa.**

canceled multi-agency and multi-company trainings. Fire inspections are suspended.

Crew members are wearing masks when interacting with the

**ARCATA FIRE ❖ PAGE 6**

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## Societal paralysis: the week in review

MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – With the economy cratered, Humboldt County businesses and struggling to find ways to survive. One option is to tap into federal disaster loans. However, two programs – the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – were closed to new applicants April 15 after they ran out of money.

According to a statement from the U.S. Treasury and Small Business Administration (SBA), the SBA processed the equivalent of 14 years worth of loans within 14 days. The program now awaits additional funding, which has to be approved by congress.

For those who submitted loan applications before April 15, an SBA representative said it could take three

**CORONAWEEK ❖ PAGE 6**

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## MCSD | 'Interesting times' put McK projects on hold

❖ FROM PAGE 1

rentals.

Frisbee said the lost revenues are being tabulated and will be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or whatever agency that may provide reimbursements, if any. She said it's not clear if any of the losses will be covered.

None of the district's buildings are being rented. Frisbee said the MCSD staff has been divided into small teams, which are using Azalea Hall and other spaces for meetings, which include social distancing. The idea is to break up the staff into small groups that don't physically interact with each other to avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

### Skate park

Committee member Charlie Caldwell said that he had hoped to break ground on a proposed skate park during Pony Express Days. Construction was supposed to take place this

summer.

"All of that stuff is on hold right now," Caldwell said. "We may push the skate park out a year."

Meanwhile, efforts continue to secure permits for the skate park, which would be built at Pierson Park.

Caldwell said that after the park is built, he would like to have benches dedicated in the memory of Pat Hassen and George Wheeler.

Hassen, who died in 2011, dedicated many years to the skate park, which she wanted built for her grandchildren. The first skate park meetings were held in Hassen's home, where she baked cookies for those who attended.

Wheeler, who died on Feb. 5, was a proponent of the skate park and served on the MCSD Board of Directors.

### BMX track

Another project that is on hold is a proposed BMX track that may be

built on property the district owns at the corner of School Road and Washington Avenue.

BMX enthusiast Jason Orlandi said the estimated cost of building the track is about \$50,000. A more detailed construction budget may be presented at the next committee meeting.

Orlandi also prepared a draft operating budget. Race fees and snack bar revenues would probably generate about \$3,900 a month. Expenses, including maintenance and insurance, would be about \$2,930. This would leave about \$970 a month for rent or track improvements.

But Wendy Orlandi said there is uncertainty given the current crisis. "I don't know what the situation will be for families," she said, adding that it's unknown what they will be able to afford.

"Interesting times," observed Committee Chair Johnny Calkins.

## Masking | City wrestles with Coronavirus measures

❖ FROM PAGE 1

cal motels had called to report difficulty paying their TOT due to a drop in guests.

All but one unnamed motel has shown good compliance with payments, so council members seemed willing to work with them on temporary relief from the financial obligation. Finance Director Ondrea Starzhevskiy may be tasked to work with motels on developing payment plans to ensure eventual collection of revenues.

While parking enforcement has been relaxed in Arcata, the council moved to ease parking requirements for the downtown Open Door Clinic, located on 10th Street. Clinic workers will get day passes so that they needn't decontaminate, change their PPE and then go back to work just to move their car.

The city's pursuit of emergency sheltering options has borne fruit, with five qualifying individuals housed in local motels and openings for five more. Priority is given to those who meet criteria set by the Centers for Disease Control



**A SIGN OF THE TIMES** Rotating messages urge citizens to observe social distancing and stay home. KLH | UNION

(CDC) for those especially vulnerable to the consequences of COVID-19: being age 65 or older and having pre-existing conditions.

The housing is being provided with support from Arcata House Partnership (AHP). Arcata Police transported the individuals to their rooms.

Sheltering locations in city-owned parking lots at Seventh and G streets and near the Intermodal Transit Facility are close to operational, with porta-potties delivered and cots arranged. Tents have already sprung up at the Seventh and G lot, and the city is looking for funding to move people in.

The city's Business Resilience Emergency Loan Program (BREL) has been

utilized by Arcata businesses. Some 26 inquiries have been received, resulting in 18 applications, 13 of which are complete and have been submitted to the Arcata Economic Development Corporation (AEDC). Of the \$250,000 available from the city's loan fund, some \$212,000 has been requested. Diemer said \$100,000 in funding was being released today. She said program participants could repay their BREL loans via a separate SBA loan, thus replenishing the fund.

Mayor Michael Winkler advocated for mandatory use of face masks in public places where food is sold.

"What's going to happen is, if somebody coughs in one of those situations, the food could be contaminated," Winkler said, without citing any evidence of groceries being a disease vector in the community. "And that could be a conduit for somebody getting infected."

Diemer said she has visited multiple retail businesses, including grocery and hardware stores, and "saw very good compliance" with masking recommendations, in the 85 to 90 percent range.

Other councilmembers weren't willing to get ahead of any available medical guidance on masking. "That needs to come from the health officer directly," said Councilmember Sofia Periera. She wanted the idea considered apart from the emergency declaration's renewal so as not to complicate or delay the motion's passage.

Councilmember Paul

Pitino was apparently swayed, withdrawing his support for the mask measure's inclusion in the motion, which then passed on unanimous vote of the four-person council.

Regarding a heightened mask requirement, Councilmember Brett Watson supported an advisory statement encouraging masking, but said enforcement of a grocery store requirement could be difficult. Pereira again said any requirement should be crafted "in close consultation with the health officer."

Pitino advocated requiring use of a mask in all businesses, but also supported getting the health officer's advice. So, at the council's direction, staff will ask county Health Officer Teresa Frankovich whether mask requirements would be useful in retail settings.

Diemer said city staff has been supplied with masks, and will wear them to help model proper precautions against Coronavirus transmission.

Meanwhile, the city has deployed its programmable portable sign to promote proper social distancing in public places. Also, bulk waste pickup has been canceled in the Recology service area.

The City Council, like other bodies which have switched to online gatherings, is becoming comfortable with its new format, with exceptions. Pitino was crisply attired in formal shirt and tie, while Periera participated from her car during a break from work, the portrait mode additionally offering an impressive view of her vehicle's headliner.

However, Winkler was poorly framed at the bottom of the screen, lower portions of his face covered by the agenda item title bar. Watson was depicted only by a slide bearing his name. And despite a caution to silence devices, someone's phone clangorously and repeatedly rang during a staff report by Diemer, interrupting her address to the council.

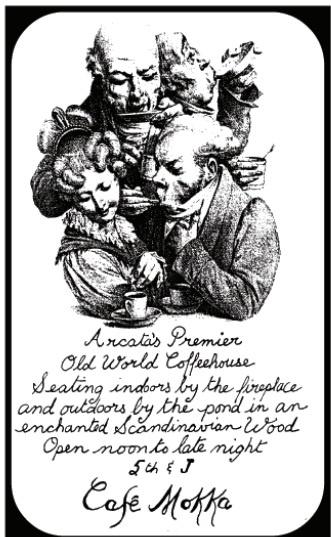
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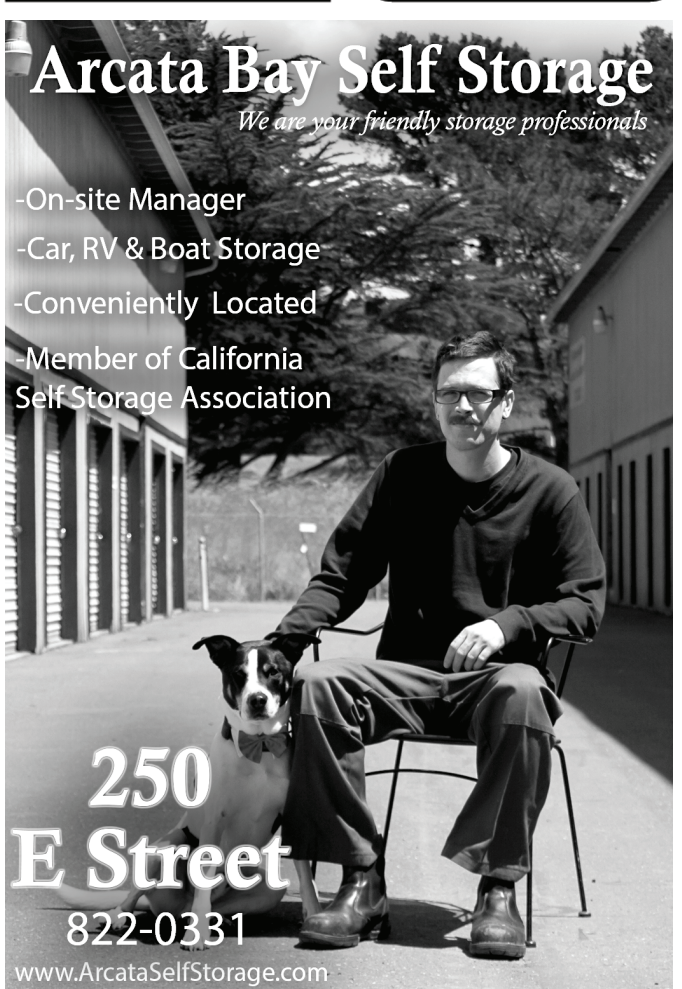
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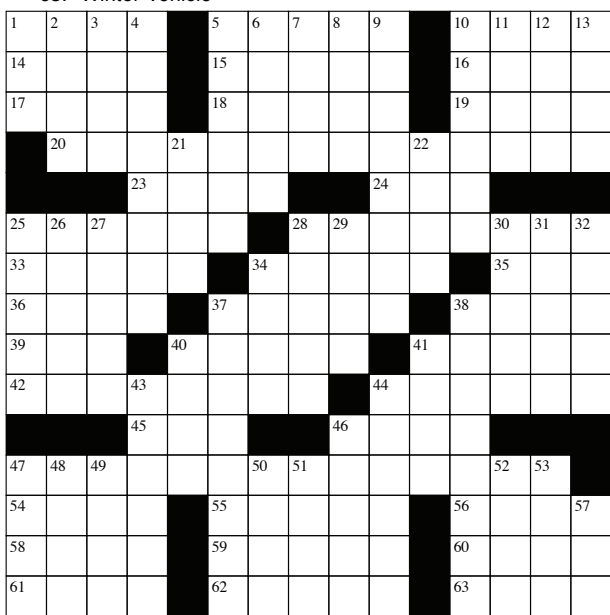
## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- European mountains
- Analyze ore
- Therefore
- Uprior
- Cowboy's rope
- Within reach
- "Or \_\_\_!"; words of a threat
- Yield
- Huck's transport
- Miss White's friends
- Word with clothes or waist
- Comedian
- Upward climb
- Cleared a path, in winter
- Dangerous sea creature
- Extra
- Keatsian work
- Accessories
- Long-legged bird
- African antelopes
- Grand \_\_\_ Opry
- Slave of old
- Damage totally
- Will maker
- Portions
- Suffix for old or cold
- Long, long time
- Charming's beloved
- Go separate ways
- Sahara resident
- Asian nation
- Woman's name
- Shred Swiss
- City in Nevada
- Crystal gazer
- Less loony
- Winter vehicle

### DOWN

- "\_\_\_ you kidding me?"
- Uplifting tune
- Luxurious
- Pittsburgh athletes
- Zealous
- Holey item
- Not in danger
- Sun disk
- Weeding and mowing
- Infuriate
- Tush
- Barbed spear
- Leftovers
- Basin
- Surfboard's support
- Wide scarf
- Layered rock
- Outer garments
- Wild animal's track
- Robert Wagner TV role, once
- Recluse
- Infer from data
- Classroom items
- French town
- Locales
- Sand, salt and sugar
- Trapdoor fastener
- "Stop!"
- Appear unsteady
- Sower
- Lessen
- Jacuzzis
- Freeway division
- White-tailed eagle
- Ibsen heroine
- Fed. agent
- Of great height
- Pair of animals
- Turf



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## MAD RIVER UNION

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Legal notices: (707) 826-7000 legals@madriverunion.com

Jack D. Durham, Editor & Publisher editor@madriverunion.com

Kevin L. Hoover, Editor-at-Large, Publisher  
opinion@madriverunion.com

Jada C. Brotman, Advertising Manager  
ads@madriverunion.com

Daniel Mintz, Janine Volkmar Reporters

Matthew Filar, Moonlight Macumber Photographers

Patti Fleschner, Mara Segal,

April Sousa, Bob Doran Columnists

Karrie Wallace, Distribution Manager karrie@madriverunion.com

Marty Burdette, Proofreader

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# Marsh trails are now directional to fight coronavirus

**CITY OF ARCATA**  
ARCATA – Since the County and State COVID-19 stay at home orders have been in place, the City of Arcata has experienced a high volume of visitors at outdoor recreation areas including the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary.

To continue to support the community with opportunities to safely recreate outdoors, and to abide by physical distancing guidelines in place to slow the spread of coronavirus, the Environmental Services Department has temporarily designated some narrow stretches of trail at the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary as one-way routes.

Maps showing the designated one-way trail sections will be posted at the marsh's parking lot kiosks, trailhead kiosks and at the Interpretive Center's door.

A printable version of the map is also available at [cityofarcata.org](http://cityofarcata.org).

The city will continue to monitor trail use at the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary and the Arcata Community Forest, and will keep city trails open as long as they are deemed safe for public use.

To minimize the impacts of coronavirus on Arcata trail users, community members are strongly encouraged to follow these recommended guidelines:

- Wear a mask or face covering when you leave



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your home and on city trails.

- Do not go for walks or bike rides with people outside of your household, this defeats the purpose of social distancing.
- Seniors age 65 and over and community members with underlying health conditions are advised to stay home.
- Stay at home if you have any allergy, cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Wash your hands before and after you go outdoors to get some exercise, and carry hand sanitizer if you are able to.
- Walk or ride your bike to the forest or marsh to avoid congregating in parking lots.
- Maintain a 6 to 8 foot distance from people outside of your household when you leave your home

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and at all city recreation areas.

- Bring your own water and keep in mind that public restrooms are closed.
- Please remember to

pick up after your pets and to pack out your trash.

For the latest local COVID-19 updates, please visit [cityofarcata.org](http://cityofarcata.org) or [humboldt.gov.org](http://humboldt.gov.org).

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The Blue Lake Rancheria values your business and is actively monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19), taking the matter very seriously. From the direction of tribal government, the tribe is choosing to close the Blue Lake Casino, Alice's Restaurant, Sushi Blue, the Wave Lounge, and the Lily Pad Café on Wednesday, March 18th, starting at 2 a.m.

The Blue Lake Casino's doors will remain closed until the end of March, when the tribe will re-evaluate the situation. The tribe is choosing to act out of an abundance of caution and is honoring Governor Gavin Newsom's request as well as strictly following recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, and other trusted sources of information.

At this point, the Blue Lake Hotel will remain open. Before check-in, guests are being asked if they have been in close contact with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. The information is then being reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If necessary, the tribe is prepared to close the hotel if the situation begins to look unsafe.

The Blue Lake Rancheria will keep Play Station 777 Gas Station and Convenience Store open for people to get fuel and supplies. If the coronavirus worsens, the tribe plans to limit access to the convenience store, and will ask customers to pay outside by credit card at the pump – all pumps will be routinely cleaned and sanitized.

The Blue Lake Rancheria's government offices and business enterprises are following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) routinely cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (e.g. workstations, countertops, and doorknobs), as well as requiring employees to practice regular handwashing and to stay home if sick. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed throughout the property in public spaces and employee-only areas for people to readily use. To educate our employees and guests about COVID-19, we have posted CDC bulletins and posters about measures that we all need to take to prevent the spread of this virus.

At this time, we expect no disruption of tribal government programs. Programs such as home meal deliveries will continue as usual. We will notify stakeholders with as much advance notice as possible if any changes are expected.

The Blue Lake Rancheria is always looking ahead at issues that could impact the region and takes great pride in community preparedness, keeping our tribal members, valued guests and dedicated employees safe. The tribe's top priority right now is to reduce the risks of coronavirus and keep our community healthy. We are reviewing local, state, and federal recommendations daily and making necessary changes.

The Blue Lake Rancheria has declared a state of an emergency and is mobilizing appropriate resources.



## Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)



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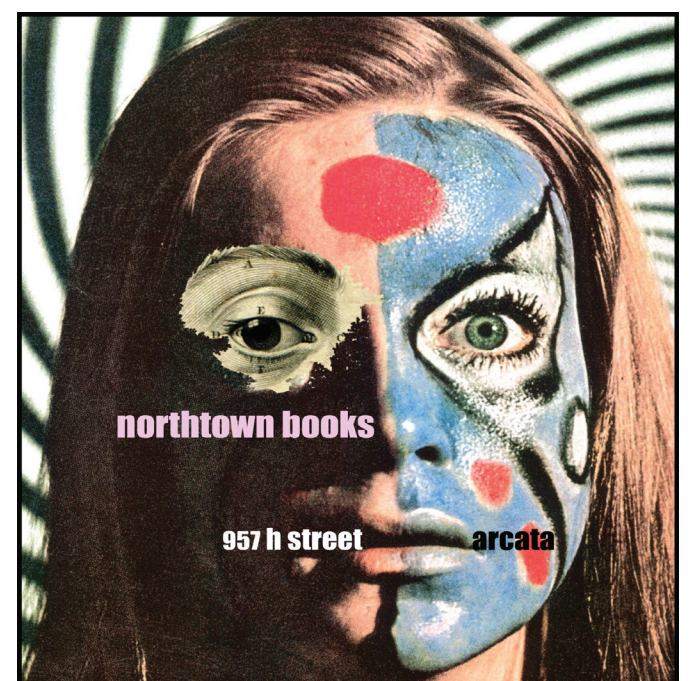


In coordination with the PBS five-hour series *Asian Americans*, KEET-TV is looking for stories from you to share in the celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May.

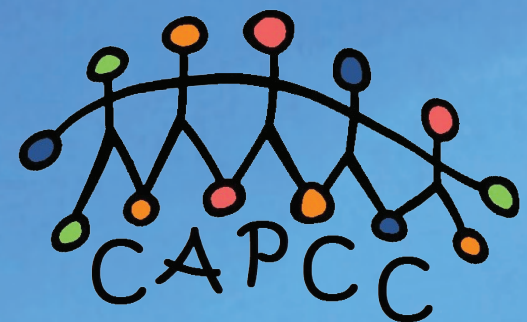
# ASIAN AMERICANS

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**CITY OF ARCATA**

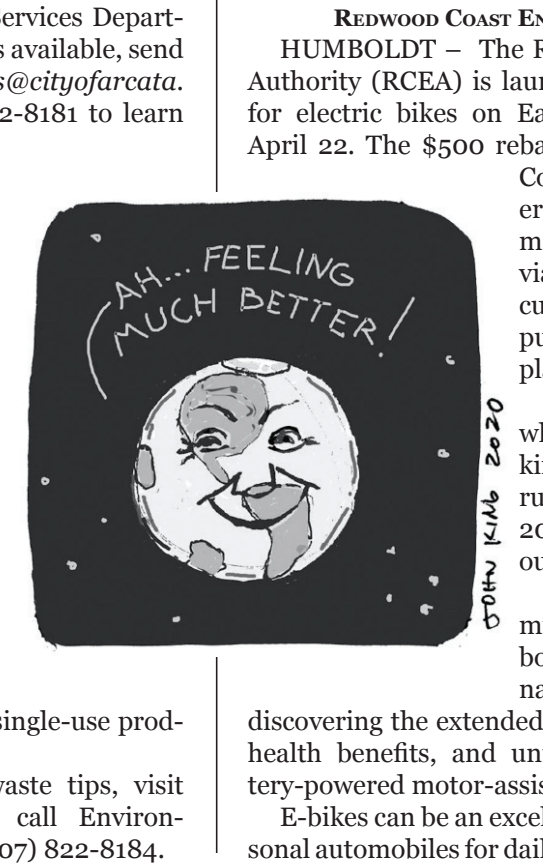
ARCATA – The 50 Annual Earth Day celebration will take place on Wednesday, April 22, and the City of Arcata Environmental Services Department has some tips on how community members can celebrate safely from home:

- *Attend a digital celebration.* Visit [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) for more information on digital events happening all over the world.
- *Embrace your green thumb.* Welcome the spring season by planting native plants, fruits and vegetables. Native plants attract pollinators like hummingbirds, butterflies and bees which are essential for plant reproduction, and make for a pretty sight in the garden as well.
- *Start composting.* Composting food waste reduces the amount of waste that gets sent to the landfill, and once it fully decomposes, it becomes a rich fertilizer to use in the garden. Arcata residents can purchase a compost bin for \$25 from

the Environmental Services Department. Free delivery is available, send an email to [eservices@cityofarcata.org](mailto:eservices@cityofarcata.org) or call (707) 822-8181 to learn more.

- *Virtually visit National Parks.* Take a virtual National Park tour. Visit [nationalparks.org](http://nationalparks.org) to experience their beauty from the safety and comfort of home.
- *Make Earth Day every day!* Taking small steps to implement zero waste practices each day can lead to big changes over time. Start by making the switch from single-use products to reusables.

For more zero waste tips, visit [cityofarcata.org](http://cityofarcata.org) or call Environmental Services at (707) 822-8184.



**REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY**

HUMBOLDT – The Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) is launching a public rebate for electric bikes on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22. The \$500 rebate, funded by RCEA's Community Choice Energy program, aims to make bike commuting a viable option for RCEA customers who wish to purchase an e-bike to replace vehicle trips.

The rebate program, which is the first of its kind in the county, will run through October 2020, or until funds run out.

Two-wheeled commuters are on the rise, both locally and internationally, as people are discovering the extended range, easy commute, health benefits, and unfettered joy that battery-powered motor-assisted bikes can provide.

E-bikes can be an excellent alternative to personal automobiles for daily transportation needs

– they can be easily modified to carry more cargo than a traditional bike, produce no exhaust emissions during transit, and allow users to ride for miles without getting tired or sweaty.

Those that find longer trips by regular bicycle too challenging or have other constraints to traveling by bike may find that electric-assist bikes are a practical, energy efficient, and liberating way to get around.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, and RCEA encourages customers to buy through local bike shops.

Terms and conditions and the application are on RCEA's website ([redwoodenergy.org](http://redwoodenergy.org)). For more information call (707) 269-1700 or email [EV@redwoodenergy.org](mailto:EV@redwoodenergy.org).

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is a local government joint powers agency whose members include the County of Humboldt, all local cities, and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.

The Energy Authority's purpose is to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources available in the region.

**EARTH DAY BEACH CLEANUP** Celebrate Earth Day with the Northcoast Environmental Center at a beach cleanup Saturday, April 20 from noon to 2 p.m. at Mad River Beach. Meet in the parking lot at noon. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. This is a zero waste event so bring your own reusables if you have them (ie. water bottles, cups, plates, etc.). NEC will provide trash pickers, buckets/bags and gloves for those who need them in limited supply.

Wear closed-toed shoes while cleaning the beach.

**ENF EARTH DAY** On Saturday, April 27, Eureka Natural Foods will celebrate its 34th anniversary and Earth Day at its Eureka location. Planned events include over 75 food vendors sampling their wares, a raffle, live music, free gift bags kids activities and more.

Eureka Natural Foods expects to see over 4,000 customers filter through their store which gives vendors a

great opportunity to reach a large swath the community who might otherwise never have heard of a particular food producer, much less have tried their food.

Leading up to, and during, the celebration Eureka Natural Foods will collect change for Pac Out Green Team through their Change 4 Change program. Every Saturday Pac Out Green Team, a local non-profit organization, conducts cleanups around the county to remove litte.

COVID forum details emergency loans, reopenings

**Daniel Mintz**  
**MAD RIVER UNION**

HUMBOLDT – Panelists in Congressman Jared Huffman's Humboldt County COVID-19 town hall forum said reopening the local economy will hinge on more thorough testing as businesses meanwhile navigate the lurching process of emergency loan approvals.

Small business assistance and improving the monitoring of coronavirus spread were on people's minds as Huffman hosted an April 13 virtual town hall forum streamed and broadcasted by Access Humboldt.

Huffman opened the forum by saying that federal funding is available for COVID-19 response and relief to individuals and small businesses but will need to be expanded.

And later in the week, on April 16, the SBA announced that the funding ran out and pending applications were no longer being processed. As of press time, lawmakers were negotiating expansion of the relief.

As local non-essential business owners seek Small Business Administration (SBA) relief loan/grants, they're eyeing a yet-to-be-defined time when they can reopen.

It will hinge on ensuring "that folks are getting tested when they need to get tested, that there are rapid reagent tests as well and that all businesses, once they reopen, know how to carry out the safety practices that are going to protect their employees and their customers," said Leila Roberts, director of the North Coast Small Business Development Center.

She recommended that business owners who are uncertain about safety practices and how and when to reopen call the county's business services hotline at (707) 268-2527.

Gregg Foster, executive director of the Redwood Region Economic Development Commission (RREDC) said his agency has a business loan program to tide businesses over while they wait out the SBA process.

He said RREDC has issued about \$300,000 in loans to its existing customers over the last one-and-a-half weeks. With additional funding from the Humboldt Area Foundation and the county's Headwaters Fund, and support from the City of Fortuna, the loan program has expanded.

Starting this week, RREDC will generally offer loans of up to \$25,000 at 2.5 percent interest with a six-month deferral. The City of Arcata also has a business loan program of its own.

Federal relief funding of \$350 billion was available through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) but distribution won't be nimble. "It is going to take some time for that SBA money to come through and apparently it's taken some time to even process applications," said Huffman.

Foster noted that the PPP essentially offers loan guarantees, so administration is done through local lenders. Not all local banks and credit unions were SBA-affiliated lenders when the application process was opened on April 3.

Those that were eligible to take applications weren't prepped for it. "There wasn't a whole lot of direction to the banks and credit unions on how to do that and they weren't even staffed-up for this huge onrush," Foster continued.

Huffman said that local lenders like Coast Central Credit Union and Redwood Capital Bank who were originally not eligible to administrate SBA loans now are.



Rep. Jared Huffman

He added that several of the region's small businesses, including the *North Coast Journal* news weekly, have gotten relief money and additional federal funding bills will soon be approved.

Also on the forum's panel was Humboldt County Health Officer Teresa Frankovich. One questioner noted that the county had seen a string of days without new COVID-19 cases but Frankovich was non-committal on naming a date when business activity can resume.

"The virus hasn't disappeared, we've just made it harder to transmit it by having people at home," she said. "So really, any move to ease the shelter in place order has to be done with a lot of solid and informed planning."

It will be done gradually. "Initial changes will be smaller and will be expanded when we see what happens once those are put in place," Frankovich said.

Huffman said health professionals will make the calls on "when we can begin transitioning to a gradual, semi-normal state."

He added, "We're nowhere close to having the kind of ubiquitous, rapid testing that we need to feel comfortable going there – yet."

Noting Governor Gavin Newsom's pledge to deliver "huge new resources" for COVID-19 testing and response by the end of the month, Huffman described protective gear for health care workers as another prerequisite for economic re-openings.

"It's frustrating that we still don't have a national strategy and a top-down, well-led effort to provide all of these essential supplies," he said. "We will need to get that ironed out in the weeks and months ahead."

County: Measure Z income covers staffing costs

**Daniel Mintz**  
**MAD RIVER UNION**

HUMBOLDT – Asked by the Board of Supervisors to analyze Measure Z costs and revenues, county administrative staff members have reported that the costs of ongoing public safety staffing won't exceed revenues "in the foreseeable future"

The balance between continuing to fund Sheriff's Office, Probation Department and District Attorney's Office staff positions and making room for road improvement and new public safety-related programs was discussed at the April 14 supervisors meeting.

Staff prepared a 10-year projection for Measure Z finances and Administrative Services Officer Fiona Wilson said costs and income will be balanced throughout the timespan. But there was a caveat – a decrease in state sales revenues is now forecast for the upcoming year due to COVID-19 shelter in place impacts.

"So as the economic impacts of the pandemic remain uncertain in the long term, staff will continue to monitor economic trends as the pandemic unfolds," she continued, adding that an update on the situation will be part of the board's third quarter budget review.

The scale of ongoing staffing costs has been an issue since last year, when the Measure Z Advisory Committee voted to ask for a meeting with a supervisors representative on it.

Another option is to cap Measure Z salary spending at fiscal year 2021's level and using General Fund money to absorb any costs beyond that. Wilson said that would cost the county about \$15 million over ten years, not accounting for the COVID-19 sales tax decrease.

Since Measure Z was presented to voters as being cost-neutral to the county's General Fund, administrative staff isn't recommending a cap on salary spending, Fiona said.

The 10-year projection's most conservative revenue growth level of one percent per year will yield \$12.2 million for Measure Z in the 2029 to 2030 fiscal year, leaving \$1.1 million for new discretionary spending.

Supervisor Steve Madrone wanted to consider making the optional strategies mandatory. "I would still very much like to put a cap on the salary positions part of this budget and basically say to the departments, 'Here's the amount of money you got in 2020, this is what you need to work within so we can maintain \$3 million or more for the discretionary account.'"

He added, "There's so many other important safety projects for this community and I don't want to see that fund dwindle away."

But Sheriff Billy Honsal said capping would be "an awful idea," as Measure Z was approved due to community desire to support rural law enforcement and public safety.

"By capping the county's expenses on this, we're limiting our own county's ability to function," he continued, adding that while it would be valuable to support new programs, "In reality we need to focus on what the county needs to deliver to make sure that we are matching what the people voted for."

The board will discuss the situation further during the next budget review.

Measure Z funding was approved, totaling \$3 million. Included is \$1.6 million for fire-fighting and nearly \$300,000 to continue the Arcata Police Department's school resource officer program for northern county school districts.

A remaining balance of about \$103,000 was approved to pay for much of the costs associated with a Fortuna Police Department drug task force agent.

Supervisors also approved forming an ad hoc committee with supervisors Mike Wilson and Rex Bohn to support smaller Measure Z grants.

C/R Law Enforcement Academy seeks cadets

**COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS**

EUREKA – College of the Redwoods will offer a Basic Law Enforcement Academy class starting in July of 2020. The program begins on July 6 and continues until December 11.

The college is actively looking for more cadets. Cadets will have to take and pass a PEL-LETB test prior to starting the Academy.

"We normally start monthly group testing in March, but because of COVID, we weren't able to do that" said Basic Academy Coordinator Sandi Petersen. "Instead, we are hosting weekly small batch testing sessions between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. So, if folks are interested in the July class, they need to call our office ASAP and get in here and be tested. We will be utilizing all the social distancing requirements during testing."

Students can find more information about the Basic Academy at [redwoods.edu/cte/aj/blea](http://redwoods.edu/cte/aj/blea), or call the office at (707) 476-4334.



**McKINLEYVILLE CHAMBER**

McKINLEYVILLE – The McKinleyville Community Services District hosts the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce's April Mixer, which is going virtual via Zoom.

Enjoy your favorite mixer moments – raffle, door prizes and networking... all in the comfort of your home!



Support a local restaurant by grabbing take out or getting delivery from one of the many wonderful options.

You must pre-register by Thursday, April 23 at 4 p.m.

Register at [uso2web.zoom.us/j/6456123456](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/6456123456)



Frankovich: ‘Robust testing’ needed

**Daniel Mintz**  
MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – Humboldt County’s public health officer has told the Board of Supervisors that before a coronavirus shelter-in-place order can be eased, there has to be new and improved capacity to do testing and respond to fresh cases.

Public Health Officer Teresa Frankovich briefed supervisors – who conducted their April 14 meeting entirely through online video conferencing – on what it will take to loosen restrictions on social contact.

“One of the big topics that comes up for COVID right now is still testing,” she said, adding that there is a “severe shortage of supplies for testing throughout much of the country, including California.”

Easing shelter in place restrictions hinges on having “robust testing in place,” Frankovich said. “Because surveillance and rapid turnaround testing will be needed in the setting of opening up any interaction at the community level.”

She said noted that California Governor Gavin Newsom has announced a plan to increase testing five-fold – to a capacity of 25,000 tests a day – by the end of the month.

Frankovich added that a thorough planning effort is underway and allowing increased social activity has to be balanced with the ongoing goal of protecting those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19’s physical impacts.

Easing of restrictions has to be accompanied with a “robust capacity for contact identification investigations, so as we do increase any numbers of cases in our community, we are able to isolate and quarantine to slow trans-

mission,” she said.

The county’s public health division has been building that capability – including participation of law enforcement investigators, Frankovich continued, to ensure that there can be “a rapid response to new cases.”

Sheriff Billy Honsal said the county’s Emergency Operations Center has about 80 people doing a variety of virus-related work, including planning and ordering supplies for first responders and county and city employees.

Humboldt County had a string of days without new confirmed cases, which was broken with one new case logged the day of the meeting. As of April 18, Humboldt had logged 52 confirmed COVID-19 cases but testing has continually been described as being inadequate, even though Humboldt’s rate of testing is better than the state’s and the nation’s.

The plan is to prepare for a peak of infection. “Based upon Dr. Frankovich and the state, we are planning for surge, still – that’s our number one priority right now,” Honsal said. “Until we have numbers that say differently, that’s our plan moving forward.”

The county’s website, *humboldt.gov.org*, is the “clearinghouse” for all local information on COVID-19, he continued.

Asked about identifying areas of the county where new cases are emerging, Frankovich said reporting will do that on a regional basis in the near future, with the county being divided into three regions.

She said any lifting of shelter in place restrictions could be accompanied by new conditions, such as making face covering mandatory instead of voluntary.



Dr. Teresa Frankovich



**SMASH & GRAB** This Trek bicycle was stolen from Northtown’s Revolution Bicycles last Thursday, April 16. If you see it, call APD at (707) 822-2428 VIA REVOLUTION BICYCLES

Berserk man punches police chief

**MAD RIVER UNION**

AARCATA – Arcata Police officers, including Chief Brian Ahearn, last Thursday subdued and arrested a berserk-acting man in the area of Eighth and K streets.

Ahearn said the man, Curtis Edwin Collins, 31, was “running through the streets vandalizing vehicles. Punched a Police Officer in the shoulder. Was tased in the 900 block of 8th Street and taken into custody after continuing to kick at officers who were trying to control Mr. Collins and safely take him into custody.”

He was arrested on charges of vandalism, resisting arrest. and assault on a police officer for punching the chief in the face. Ahearn said no officers were harmed during the arrest.

Ahearn related the incident to reporter Lisa Librenjack of KRCR News:

“I see this shirtless white male basically probing himself down on the ground who looked like somebody from Hensel’s with a red vest on,” Ahrean told KRCR. “I ended



**WELL THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY** Collins taunts APD officers just prior to his arrest. JIMI AXIS VIDEO GRAB

up coming in contact with this male at the corner of Eighth and J Street in Arcata,” Ahearn told the station.

“The suspect was clearly under the influence of either a controlled substance or some type of hallucinogen, cause he’s running, walking, jogging, alternating between the three, waving his arms, yelling and screaming. Just running between the street and the sidewalk,” Ahearn said.

Due to his level of violence,

unwillingness to comply with commands from officers and threat to the community, Ahearn said, Collins was placed in a “wrap” – a whole-body restraint system – and conveyed to the hospital for removal of taser probes. Following medical clearance, he was taken to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility.

A video of the event, shot by Facebook user Jimi Axis, is linked at *madriverrunion.com*.

Arcata Fire | Could sell disused parcel

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public, and full medical personal protection gear when responding to medical calls.

The district has also ramped up the cleaning and disinfecting of crew quarters and equipment.

Station closures

Due to the failure of Measure R on March 3, the district is only operating two of its three stations, with closures rotated every eight days.

This week through April 24, the McKinleville Station at 2149 Central Ave. will be closed. From April 25 to May 2, the Mad River Station at 3235 Janes Rd. in Arcata will be closed, From May 3 to May 10 the Arcata Downtown Station at 631 Ninth St. will be closed. Then the cycle repeats itself.

Another measure?

At its April 14 meeting, the board discussed, but did not decide, whether to place another measure on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Chief McDonald said he was contacted by Mark Rynearson of McKinleyville about having the community organize in support of another measure. The idea, McDonald explained, is that the community would lead the effort.

Board member Randy Mendosa noted that the election results were close, with 63.03 percent of voters supporting the measure which needed 66 percent to pass.

“I love the idea Mark Rynearson has of making this community driven,” Mendosa said.

During public comments, a man asked whether the district had decided to pursue the ballot measure and whether it was looking at charging for some of the services it provides.

McDonald said the district has not decided whether to pursue it and is looking at charging for some of its services.

Mendosa said that although he’s only one of five district board members, he’s going to “push hard” for having a measure on the November ballot.

He said having a station closed and fewer staff on duty “is a crisis.”

“We’re going to be going out of the pandemic and into the fire season,” Mendosa said.

The board has until July 1 to inform the Humboldt County Elections Office that it wants a measure on the ballot. A proposed ordinance and resolution for the measure would need to be submitted to the elections office by Aug. 7.

Budget update

The board received an update on the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. The nearly \$3.4 million budget is expected to have a surplus of \$333,804. That’s an improvement over the current fiscal year, which has a deficit of \$241,879.

The biggest expense is personnel. The

district has 17 full-time employees and three part-time employees.

There are a lot of unknowns going into the new fiscal year, which begins July 1.

With the economy cratered, many businesses closed and people out of work, will residents be able to pay their property taxes?

In a report to the board, McDonald wrote “The County Tax Collector has indicated that there is a possibility that the collection rate could be down by 10 percent.”

Sales tax revenues are also expected to decline.

“At the end of this month, the County should be depositing our second installment of the property tax revenues. At that point, we will be able to see if there is a reduction in revenues that will affect this fiscal year’s budget and or next years,” McDonald wrote.

Surplus property

The district board voted 3-1, with director David Rosen dissenting and director Elena David absent, to declare land it owns at 1127 Old Arcata Rd. in Bayside as surplus property. The board’s action will allow the district to sell the property.

The .77-acre parcel at the intersection of Old Arcata Road and Anderson Lane was purchased by the district in 1993 for a Bayside fire station.

“However, the Bayside area has had little growth since 1993 and the property has been used mostly for storage since that time,” stated McDonald in a report to the board.

The district has to pay someone to mow the parcel every year and recently had to pay for the removal of an RV that someone dumped on the property.

Director Rosen questioned whether this was the best time to try to sell the property, given the downturn in the market.

McDonald said by declaring the property surplus, the board is giving staff a green light to consult with a real estate about the best course of action for the property.

Zooming on zoom

The April 14 meeting was the second electronic meeting for the board. Its first was on March 24, when it used Google Hangouts. This time the board used Zoom, which shows participants’ faces on a computer screen if they turn on their webcams.

There is one large image, which is the person who is currently speaking. Smaller images of participants are shown at the top or side of the screen. Participants can turn off their webcams and audio if they choose.

Although the meetings are held electronically, they are still open to the public and time is set aside for public comment. You can log into the meetings using a computer or you can call in using a phone.

Agendas for the Arcata Fire District meetings, as well as the codes for Zoom, are posted at *arcatafire.org*.

Coronaweeek | Far-reaching ramifications

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weeks or more before applicants are notified about the status of their loans.

While applicants for the EIDL program have applied directly through the SBA, the Paycheck Protection Program was administered by banks, including Redwood Capital Bank, Tr-Counties Bank and Coast Central Credit Union .

Inmate release raises concerns

An emergency bail schedule rule went into effect April 13 for the State of California, eliminating bail for misdemeanors and most lower-level felonies.

The California Judicial Council adopted the new emergency rule, in addition to 10 others, at a meeting on April 6 in an effort to “reduce jail populations,” and create a uniform standard for addressing certain offenses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the Judicial Council’s order was mandated to go into effect by April 13 at 5 p.m., the Humboldt County Superior Court began the process on April 10, with eight Humboldt County Correctional Facility inmates released that day following bail reduction hearings.

Humboldt County District Attorney Maggie Fleming says her office is currently reviewing cases to identify inmates eligible to be released without bail under the emergency rule.

“I consider the zero-bail policy for people charged with most misdemeanors and low-level felonies a well-justified response to a unique public health challenge,” Fleming said. “However, as always in criminal justice, it’s important to recognize the uniqueness of each case and to maintain focus on the safety of victims and the public.”

While the emergency rule does not apply to serious or violent felonies, Sheriff William Honsal says this “one-size-fits-most” approach could jeopardize public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, putting extraordinary demands on service providers.

“I understand the unprecedented impacts that the COVID-19 outbreak has created but am deeply concerned that this rule will have far-reaching public safety ramifications,” Sheriff Honsal said. “There will certainly be a strain on our local service providers to assist our mentally ill, homeless and drug-addicted population with the appropriate planning and tools they need to be successful after release.”

Honsal warned that the emergency rule would apply to other offenses including child abuse, elder abuse, and violating public health orders. “In Humboldt County, more than a dozen inmates have been identified as eligible to have their bail reduced to \$0, and more may be eligible for significant bail reductions despite being held on serious or violent felony charges,” Sheriff Honsal said.

Though the emergency rule lowers the

bail schedule, judges still have the ability to deny the release of inmates per the California Constitution. Humboldt County prosecutors are encouraging the judges making decisions about the release of inmates to carefully consider the trade-off between reducing the jail population to enhance the safety of inmates and correctional officers versus holding people likely to cause harm in custody to enhance the safety of victims and the public.

The District Attorney’s Office is also contacting the victims who might be affected by the release of specific inmates and giving them the opportunity to address the judge making the custody decision.

“While I appreciate the Judicial Council’s work to keep court operations running, I urge our Humboldt County judges to examine the totality of the circumstances when applying this order,” Honsal said.

Concealed gun permits extended

Humboldt County Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) permit holders will now have until the end of October to renew their permits due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On Thursday, April 16 Sheriff William Honsal implemented emergency CCW extensions for permits expiring in 2020. Permits set to expire this year will have their validity extended to Oct. 31, 2020. These extensions are only valid in Humboldt County.

The emergency extensions come after the shelter-in-place order of the Health Officer placed limitations on public gatherings. With the restrictions, permit holders have not been able to complete mandatory refresher courses and renewal interviews. Though the permits have been extended, CCW holders are encouraged to begin the renewal process online at the Sheriff’s Office’s website as soon as the restrictions have been lifted.

As use of facial coverings is recommended for all Humboldt County residents, Sheriff Honsal says that CCW Permit holders abiding by the recommendation while carrying their weapon will not be in violation of Penal Code 25300(a).

“Penal Code 25300(a) only applies to those persons who are carrying weapons while masked to hide their identity,” Sheriff Honsal said. “If you are lawfully carrying your weapon while following the guidance from the Public Health Officer, to wear a mask for protection against COVID-19, then you are not in violation. Thank you for being a safe and responsible CCW holder in our County.”

The Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office is not accepting new CCW permit applications at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information regarding the CCW permitting process, visit *humboldtsheriff.org/ccw* or call (707) 445-7251.



### Let’s remember what’s important

As we navigate our way through the COVID-19 lockdown here in Humboldt County, we are beginning to realize just how much our daily interactions with other people mean to us. We are missing our families, our communities and our socializing.

For many of us it’s the simple act of not being able to see or hug our loved ones. For others, it’s the fact that we are not able to meet with friends and colleagues from school, university, work, sports club or the many other outlets where we meet and socialize with people on a daily basis.

We take these daily social meetings with people for granted. Whether it’s just a small chat with a person in the cafe or a visit to our parents in the home where we grew up, these social restrictions are beginning to affect us in ways that we have not known before.

Sharing experiences with other human beings is so important for our health. In my twenties I did a lot of solo travelling around the world. I also travelled a lot with friends. I found that shared experiences were far more enjoyable and memorable than solo experiences.

Subconsciously, most of us seek this bonding through shared experiences with others. It is an integral part of our make up as human beings. When this is taken away, we feel isolated from our family and our community and life doesn’t feel the same.

If we are to take anything out of this pandemic, maybe we will begin to understand how family and community keep us going and keep the human spirit strong. Separation and division may be necessary right now but it can also be a great teacher.

### ❖ LETTERS

Let’s use this time to remember what’s really important to us when this pandemic passes. Keep safe out there.

**PJ Cuddihy  
Arcata**

### Literacy is lit

This seems the perfect time to advocate for support for computer literacy training for our seniors.

For the past three years, the former executive director of the McKinleyville Senior Center (MSC) and I, as the current ED, have written numerous grants requesting training for our seniors in the use of computers and cell phones.

Many of our seniors do not know the basics of a computer and don’t realize the benefits in accessing the Internet. They are becoming isolated from more than just the current pandemic. Unfortunately, all requests for funding to provide digital literacy have been denied.

I still cannot understand this, since seniors are the most vulnerable population in our communities; I thought this would be ideal to have seniors working from computers at home, ordering medical supplies, speaking with doctors and communicating with their families via Zoom, Skype or FaceTime programs. Plus, learning everything they can do with a cell phone if a computer is not available.

Then the global pandemic occurred. Looking back, had MSC received even one of those grants at least 100 seniors would have been trained on computer access and usage. Many may be isolated at home but would have access to a wider world that technological literacy offers.

The pandemic has only accelerated this need at the home. Most seniors don’t know how to use a computer, or their skills are limited, but given the basic training they learn quickly. Especially now with the availability of voice programs that can eliminate typing, can play music, locate services and answer complex questions.

We may hear about flattening the COVID-19 virus curve, but the learning curve of our seniors is not flat, just underserved and lacking education updates on current digital realities.

So, my purpose in writing is to encourage members of our community to invest in our seniors. It doesn’t matter if they are 55 or 97, we all need to keep learning. There may be a generational gap, but a digital divide has occurred that we need to address.

I cannot stress strongly enough the need to train our seniors to be prepared with better access to information and resources when natural disasters occur.

The current pandemic is just an eye opener. I hope we can all work together and help our seniors become participants in their future.

It is projected that seniors will increase in population by 88 percent in the next few years so the need to keep them active and computer literate is a basic essential in their lively hoods.

And, you may not think of yourself as a senior yet, but when you do, we hope MSC is here to welcome you, help you stay healthy, active, socially connected and digitally skilled.

Please call the center or me with ways you can help us achieve this very worthy goal for a vulnerable segment of our community.

Sincerely,  
**Mr. Rene Quintana**, executive director  
**McKinleyville Senior Center**

### President or tyrant?

President Trump never admits he could be wrong. When it’s come to the fight against COVID-19, he’s blamed everybody but himself for any problems, even though he himself has frequently asserted both inaccurate and inconsistent information.

Meanwhile, most governors have followed the advice of administration health officials, restricting businesses and imposing social distancing.

Some governors on each coast are even fashioning joint reopening plans to avoid situations that might reignite the pandemic in their regions.

Trump noted that he too is working on a plan. When asked what he might do if his plan were in conflict with state plans, he noted he could impose his plan because, in such cases, “When somebody’s the president of the United States, the authority is total,” a statement which was immediately refuted by many. The next day, Trump withdrew his statement saying he wants to work with governors after all.

Trump’s initial response claiming “total authority” along with his continual finding ways to blame others for his problems shows Trump doesn’t react like a president, but rather a tyrant.

I think it’s time for Congress to reprimand Trump for his behavior. Perhaps then he will start behaving like a president, not a tyrant.

**Sherman Schapiro  
Eureka**

❖ Sign your letter to the *Mad River Union* with a real name and a city of origin, plus a phone number (which won’t be published) for identity verification and send it to [opinion@madriverrunion.com](mailto:opinion@madriverrunion.com).

# Generosity and understanding touch birding fest

**Sue Leskiw**  
GODWIT DAYS VOLUNTEER MEDIA LIAISON

When Godwit Days Board members (and I, as media liaison) met early on Friday, March 13 (not an auspicious date in normal times!), we dutifully sat six feet apart or called in remotely. We were faced with deciding what to do about the 25th annual festival planned for mid-April.

Our Arts! Arcata wine pour fundraiser that evening had been canceled. Our two keynote speakers had informed us that they were not traveling to speaking engagements. Several field trip leaders had expressed concern about hours of close contact during carpooling. T-shirt and poster printing needed a go/no-go choice that day.

After mulling whether to wait a week to decide – Humboldt happenings had just started to be crossed off the calendar – we opted to postpone the festival until undetermined dates this fall. Although we were able to void T-shirt and poster orders and cancel catering and Nature Joe with no penalty, many expenditures already had occurred (e.g., independent contractor time, website construction, postcard printing/ mailing).

As a nonprofit organization

that would soon be returning registration, vendor and sponsor fees, it remained to be seen whether we would have the financial reserves to gear up for a fall festival. Especially because Godwit Days has operated in the red the past three years.

Someone at the board meeting suggested that we send a message to registrants asking them if they wanted to donate a portion of their fees back to Godwit Days.

I volunteered to draft language and came up with: “The festival has been postponed due to concerns of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Plans for a fall event are in the works – we will keep you posted. All registrants will receive a full refund within three weeks.

As many expenses have been incurred up to this point – and Godwit Days is a nonprofit organized solely to put on a birding festival – we will experience a significant financial loss. If you wish to donate any portion of your registration to our nonprofit organization, please contact us at [godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com](mailto:godwitdaysreg@yahoo.com) as soon as possible. All donations are tax-deductible.”

We had no idea how this message would be received by our 158 paying registrants. We’re so

gratified to find that 39 percent of them chose to donate \$4,302.50 back to the festival! Many included a message about how much they loved Godwit Days: “Please do not refund my credit card. I will donate what I paid (\$80) as a small token of my appreciation for what you do for our community... Please keep my registration to help defray your losses. I am hoping you can have a festival this fall. It is a huge disappointment that you can’t do it this spring, so fingers crossed... Sorry about the festival cancellation and certainly it was the right thing to do. Please keep \$150 towards your expenses when refunding our fees. Looking forward to the Fall Godwit Days... I am disappointed but I completely understand. Thank you for all that went into the decision. It is a prudent one. I will donate the \$35 basic registration fee. Thank you again for rising to this unexpected challenge... So sad to hear this but do understand. Please keep 50 percent of my registration payment as a donation towards your efforts. I look forward to joining the fall event!... Please accept my Godwit Days registration as a donation. Hope you are well and offer encouragement that this will pass and we will gather again.”

At least one vendor has donated

its booth fee to Godwit Days. Many others have told us to keep their money as a placeholder for a booth at the next festival. (Sue Moore, who was in charge of vendors, points out that many of our exhibitors are small businesses or nonprofit organizations facing an uncertain economic challenge, so understandably would want their \$55 or \$110 returned.)

Most Godwit Days sponsors give in-kind donations or media time, rather than cash, but Friends of the Arcata Marsh had donated \$500 to underwrite the Saturday keynote. I approached the FOAM Board about whether it wanted the money returned. When asked for details about the festival’s financial situation, I replied “I can share with you that Godwit Days was able to cancel some outlays, such as posters, T-shirts, hall rental, and catering and the keynote speakers had not yet booked air fares. However, most of the cost for the independent contractors and website has already been expended. We were hoping that the 25th year would put us in the black after 3 years of losses.”

I also attached a copy of a financial article I wrote for the *Times-Standard*. FOAM Board members responded “These days

call for generosity: I vote to give the money to them. It’s a good investment in our community and our goals... I am fine with leaving the money in the Godwit Days treasury.”

Other sponsors are being contacted and may follow the lead of Godwit Days Board chair Alex Stillman by not requesting a refund of their financial support.

Godwit Days likely will need to hold at least one fundraiser. Watch local media for an announcement, as we’ll be seeking volunteers, attendees, and silent auction donors.

One fundraiser that we know about is participating in Eureka Natural Foods Change 4 Change program. Over a four-day period, shoppers at the Eureka and McKinleyville stores are asked to round up their register total to the nearest whole dollar, with proceeds coming to Godwit Days. We were scheduled to do this in April, but owner Rick Littlefield and administrative officer Graigory Fillmore readily agreed to postpone it to later in the year.

Anyone can help secure the future of Humboldt’s birding festival by clicking the Donate button on our website ([godwitdays.org](http://godwitdays.org)). We’ve already received one \$100 donation.

## Union writer Steve Robles taken by COVID-19

**MAD RIVER UNION**  
ARCATA – Steve Robles, writer and reporter for the *Mad River Union* and *Arcata Union*, has passed away after a weeks-long battle with COVID-19 in a Los Angeles-area hospital.

Robles wrote for a variety of publications in the San Francisco Bay area including the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, *SF Weekly*, *BBH Media* and various online news sites.

He also worked as a freelance proofreader and worked for a number of marketing companies.

On his LinkedIn page, Robles described himself as a “cannabis advocacy journalist.”

At the *Mad River Union* through last November, Robles wrote general news and profiled businesses in Arcata’s Cannabis Innovation Zone. At the end of the year he moved to Los Angeles.

He studied journalism at Los Angeles Harbor College in Wilmington and studied marketing at San Francisco State University.

Known to his friends as SteveO, one of Robles’ passions was music.

He was part of a San Francisco DJ crew that called itself “The Ambient Mafia.”

He was an accomplished guitarist, always up for jamming, and had an ear for unorthodox musical styles. Along with superb writing skills, Robles was gifted with a piercing and sardonic sense of humor.

His mischievous quips and consummate facility with paste-up always enlivened production sessions on deadline at the former *Arcata Union* newspaper.

Recalled friend Jackie Backman, “He was one of the editorial department ‘original gangsters’ and



Steve Robles

one of the funniest, chilliest dudes I’ve ever met...”

“He also knew that if anyone so much as hummed ‘The Final Countdown’ in my presence it would get stuck in my head for days. And so, in true SteveO fashion, he did it often...”

“He would always end by saying ‘you’re doing great, Jr.’ and I always appreciated hearing that from such a talented person.

“I’ll miss you, Steve. May you rest easy and rock hard in the heavens.”

## Unsolved Josiah Lawson killing passes 3-year mark

**CITY OF ARCATA**  
ARCATA – Three years ago, Humboldt State student David Josiah Lawson was killed in Arcata. This case remains under investigation and the Arcata Police Department is seeking the public’s assistance during the on-going investigation.

On April 15, 2017, while attending a house party on Spear Avenue, Josiah was stabbed during an altercation. Josiah was pronounced deceased shortly thereafter at Mad River Community Hospital.

Witnesses described upwards of 100 people in attendance at the house party. Many of those who were present have not been identified nor have they been interviewed by detectives from the Arcata Police Department.

The completion of this investigation is dependent

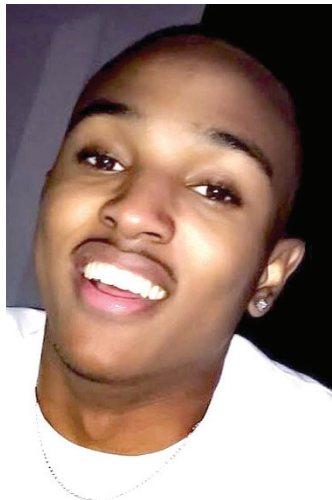
on a number of factors including interviewing all people who were present at some point during the party or who have information that can corroborate what occurred that night.

The Arcata Police Department established a 24-hour confidential tip line for community members to provide information relative to this investigation.

The phone number is (707) 825-2590. Community members can also call the APD’s Dispatch Center at (707) 822-2424.

Keeping Josiah’s memory alive is paramount to this case. The Arcata Police Department will continue to investigate this case and will continue to work all investigative leads until justice prevails.

At [cityofarcata.org](http://cityofarcata.org) is a public service announcement developed in partnership with DJ’s Mother,



David Josiah Lawson

Charmaine Lawson, the Arcata Police Department, the Eureka Broadcasting Company and the City of Arcata’s IT Department.

The PSA link is Facebook compatible. All are encouraged to share this link with anyone in order to never forget DJ and to encourage community members who have any information at all regarding who else was in attendance at the party and/or the events that led to DJ’s death, to come forward.



## Dell'Arte debuts online season, artist talks

DELL'ARTE INTERNATIONAL

BLUE LAKE – In an effort to stay connected amid increased physical distance, Dell'Arte International is going online with original performances and monthly Artist Talks held live over Zoom with its founders, faculty and community.

“As we navigate these uncertain times, one thing is clear – the arts are necessary now more than ever,” said Founding Artistic Director Michael Fields. “Uncharted times call for innovative creativity and collaboration. We're thrilled to infuse the community in these ways and look forward to when we can gather again in person.”

Dell'Arte will release classics such as *Mad Love*, 2012, *Radioman*, 2019, and even the crowd favorite *Mary Jane – a Musical*



**MARY JANE** The musical “Potumentary” will be online for your viewing pleasure. PHOTO BY TERRENCE McNALLY

*Potumentary*. All will be rolled out on video platforms such as YouTube and Vimeo; stay updated by following Dell'Arte's social media channels and website.

To commemorate the first online season, a virtual Artist Talk via Zoom is slated for Thursday, April

30, and will feature a conversation with Dell'Arte co-founder Jane Hill, and founding artistic directors Joan Schirle and Michael Fields, who have been involved in the organization since its formative years.

The first show – *Mad Love* – stars Michael Fields, Joan Schirle and Donald Forrest, an ensemble responsible for more than 15 collaborative works since 1977. Adapted from the 1935 expressionist film starring Peter Lorre, the play tells the dark tale of a brilliant surgeon who replaces the damaged hands of a concert pianist with the hands of a murderer.

Set in the “Theatre of Horrors” and given a unique Dell'Arte spin, *Mad Love* explores the thin line between horror and humor, exploring the power of suggestion and its effectiveness as a controlling device.

The full online season, subject to change, is:

- April 23-29 – *Mad Love*

- April 30, 4:30 to 6 p.m. – Dell'Arte Artist Talk on Zoom, “A conversation with the founders of Dell'Arte,”

- May 7-13 – *Radioman*

- May 21, 4:30 to 6 p.m. – Dell'Arte Artist Talk on Zoom, “Theatre in Community with Dell'Arte Faculty Member Sayda Trujillo.”

- May 21-27 – *Punctual Folly*

- June 3-10 – *Mary Jane: A Musical Potumentary*

Visit [dellarte.com](http://dellarte.com) for more information.

The annual Mad River Festival, slated for June-July, has been postponed until September. In lieu of ticket sales for the online shows, Dell'Arte is instead requesting donations to fund scholarships and the ability to keep the people at the heart of the organization.

“Our current students have already put so much time, commitment, energy and resources into their programs at Dell'Arte,” Fields said. “Our primary goal is to support them as best we can through this time and continue providing top-tier education in this transition to distance learning. Together we will persevere and find comfort and joy through staying in touch.”

## Remote-abaga Ball

RUTABAGA QUEENS

HUMBOLDT – The Rutabaga Queens have stewarded the historic Kinetic Grand Championship through seemingly insurmountable challenges many times since a few of them formed the nonprofit Kinetic Universe in 2007 and assumed responsibility for running the internationally renowned three-day art race, so perhaps it can be said that 2020 is business as usual in the Kinetic Kingdom.

Queen Betty Crafter, crowned in 2019, said that “In the Kinetic Universe, we live by the word kinetic, meaning movement. If racers come across an obstacle, they find a way around it. We Queens have been sent the ultimate obstacle. In the spirit of Kinetics, we are thinking on our feet and getting creative with the Remote-abaga Ball! I can't wait to have the honor of crowning this year's Queen!”



**VIRTUAL PARTY** Betty Crafter, Rutabaga Queen 2019. PHOTO BY ANDREW GOFF

With that in mind, the Rutabaga Queens have unveiled plans for a completely different Rutabaga Ball and “Kinetic Sculpture in Place” Race during these historic times. Those vying to reign from the comfort of their own home as Queen over the 51st weekend of streamcasted Kinetic festivities still must show that they have the best formal-wear, best talent, and best idea for crossing the bay.

Queen contestants and their hard-working entourages will need to meet new digital communications and creativity challenges while creating the pre-recorded portions of the competition from their separate locations.

The Remote-abaga Ball will be held Saturday, May 23 during the Kinetic Sculpture in Place Livestream. There will be live contestant interviews, a musical guest, and a live peek into the Quaren-Queen Judges' Zoom feed before they make their momentous decision.

While the new Queen's coronation will be virtual, the crown will be real... presumably to be sent later via a safe, contact-free delivery.

Also changed for 2020 is the cherished Kinetic tradition of “bribing,” in which Queen contestants, racers and others share small (or elaborate) personalized gifts with judges and spectators.

The Queens explicitly discourage anyone from making any such non-essential errand, and encourage everyone in the Kinetic Kingdom and beyond to maintain their safety and keep risk minimization front and center. If a contestant is able to dream up a bribe that is digital, intangible and contact-free, the Queens welcome it and acknowledge the effort made.

“The 2020 Rutabaga Queen will impress us with their creativity by working within these constraints, not by pushing the boundaries of safety during an actual global pandemic,” says 2007 Rutabaga Queen Emma “The EmChantress” Breacain. “A lot of great art comes out of crushing limitations. We are honestly excited to see what they come up with.”

For more information about the Rutabaga Queens' 2020 Remote-abaga Ball, contact [QueenTexas@kineticuniverse.org](mailto:QueenTexas@kineticuniverse.org), or call the Kinetic Hotline (707) 786-3443.

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OBITUARY

Opie Hendricks

Dec. 14, 1929 – April 12, 2020

Opie Hendricks passed away on Easter morning at the age of 90 with his family at his bedside. Opie touched many lives, from his business of Opie's Fine Cars, his community service and his love of life.

Opie was born in Center Ridge, Arkansas on Dec. 14, 1929. He joined the Army in 1948. He moved to California in 1950 and finished his military service with the National Guard in 1953. In 1951 he made his best decision and married his wife, Imogene.

Opie was a confident man — once he put his mind to something, he would make it happen. He had a vision to bring McKinleyville a car lot. In 1968, Opie's Fine Cars opened its doors and remained a thriving business for over 50 years. One of his iconic phrases was "The coffee is always on up on the hill in McKinleyville."

Opie was never satis-



fied with remaining idle. One of his favorite sayings was "Make that dog hunt." He became involved in Independent Auto Dealers Association of California (IADAC) and was a past president and later went on to become president of the National Independent Auto Dealers Association (NIADA).

Opie was a community figure in McKinleyville, and he loved community service. Opie was president of the Mad River Chapter of Rotary. He was a Grand Marshal of Pony Express

Days. He donated a car for Safe and Sober graduation events, and he taught students at local high schools on how to buy a car. He often sponsored Little League teams.

Opie is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 69 years, Imogene; his four children, Dennis Hendricks (Kathi), Greg Hendricks (Karen), Debra Littlefield (Chris) and Michelle Hendricks-Pollace (Dan); his eight grandchildren, Ian Hendricks, Calen Davis, Chris Davis, Sophia Pollace, Lauren Washington, Avery Washington, Dustin Littlefield, Jaycie Littlefield; and two great-grandchildren, Sloan and Zia Coburn.

He is survived by his brother, Wayne Hendricks, and preceded in death by siblings Louise Farrar, Edward Hendricks, Victor Hendricks, Dan Hendricks and Sue Pate.

Opie will have a celebration of life at a future date.

Blue Lake to collect green waste

How are you all doing, Blue Lake? What keeps you going through these interesting days?

I think the sun has helped over the past week or so – has anyone noticed how many lawn mowers were going during those real sunny days?? Well, landscaping is an essential activity, and one we can do ourselves at home.

Speaking of landscaping, the City of Blue Lake has decided that Green Waste Days are also essential and has rescheduled the previously cancelled Green Waste Day for this coming Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.!

I guess it's a sign of the times to realize that I am more excited for this than normal. So, work on your yards and bring your organic green trimmings (no presurized or treated wood please) to the Blue Lake Corporation Yard and follow these guidelines: Stay in your car until it is your turn and practice physical distancing (6 feet apart, masks are recommended, and no gathering of groups).

We got this Blue Lake! And thank you to our city administrators and staff for bringing this opportunity back during this time!!

This week I want to do a special callout

to Darcey Lima and her Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) diners!

Darcey has been offering her amazing meals for only \$12. You can pick up one of Darcey's Dinners curbside or free delivery in Blue Lake. Days and meal offerings change weekly, so give Darcey a call at (707) 601-1302 in order to find out the next meal and discuss pick up or deliver options. If you haven't had one of Darcey's meals yet, you are in for a real treat! I don't think I've had anything yet that isn't just simply amazing!

Lastly, I want to give a shout out to the mask makers of Blue Lake, there are many out there making all sorts of styles, but I especially want to call out Jean Stach, who has been leaving masks for free pick up outside of the Resource Center (the Skinner Store Building) for people who are in need to pick one up.

And I just learned that Rebecca Zettler is also making masks for this same community project. Thank you, ladies, and thank you to all those who are doing this amazing work.

Don't forget to howl at 8 p.m. Blue Lake – maybe if we are loud enough, they will hear us in the next town over!



**FILM FESTIVAL** Tired of sheltering in place at home and need some vicarious adventure? On Friday, April 24 The Miniplex in Arcata will be streaming the second Women's Adventure Film Festival, with a discount code for Miniplex patrons! [miniplexevents.com/index.html](http://miniplexevents.com/index.html)

City government soldiers on

City business goes on despite being unable to physically gather people together in the Trinidad Town Hall.

For the April 14 Trinidad City Council meeting, City Clerk Gabriel Adams organized a video and teleconferencing meeting via Webex which allowed Mayor Steve Ladwig, Councilmembers Jack West, Dwight Miller, Dave Grover and Tom Davies, City Manager Eli Naffah, City Planner Trevor Parker and the City Clerk to appear on the computer screens of 39 people who tuned in during the three-and-a-half hour meeting.

Two resolutions were passed unanimously. One explained by Manager Naffah related to the COVID-19 emergency. The City of Trinidad agreed to cooperate with county health officials on distancing and shelter-in-place recommendations.

The other resolution, explained by Planner Parker, had to do with a State of California mandate to all California cities to provide for "emergency shelters" for homeless people.

Parker explained that the only places in Trinidad where a shelter could be erected would be in a commercial or planned development zone and that a use permit and Coastal Development Permit (CDP) would be required for such a building.

The state mandate does not necessarily require a homeless shelter building but it gives California cities "an opportunity to have one."

One of the agenda items was a discussion on extending city water service. Cher-ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria CEO Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Tribal Council Member Robert Hemsted and government liaison Shirley Laos presented a compelling slide show on Trinidad Rancheria's investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars in community projects, including the water system, Scenic Drive, harbor public restrooms, the pier, school safety measures and other needs.

The Rancheria, in completing their 100-room hotel, needs water and they have been requesting a decision from the city on this since May 2019.

The Trinidad City Council has hired GHD Engineers to research and report on

city water capacity from Luffenholtz Creek to its existing storage and plant system on Westhaven Drive.

GHD reports have been presented and the matter has been discussed at most council meetings since last fall. The council did not vote "yes" or "no" at the April 14 meeting since the Webex format was new to the city and public comments were difficult to put forward.

Among the 39 people who signed into the on line meeting, were Richard Harris, David Hankin, Bryce Kenny, Sheri Provolt, Richard Johnson, Don Allan, Brian Tissot, Dorothy Cox, Ellen Golla, Erica Pinto, Dick Bruce, Jim Baker, Steve Madrone, Richard Clompus, Trina Mathewson and Ryan Sundberg.

Several in the audience were able to call in or email questions, but communication was not perfect. So at the next council meeting on April 28 and/or at the regular May 12 meeting, the subject of water capacity, and a possible council vote on extending the system may occur.

In other city business, Gabriel Adams presented an informative slide show on the extension of the 3/4 cent sales tax in the city which added about \$147,000 to city revenue in 2019. Most of the tax comes from the Chevron station, restaurants, gift shops, Murphy's Market, online shopping and other sources.

This is separate from the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), which brought in about \$140,000 from lodging services in 2019. The last time the sales tax was on the ballot in November 2016, 63 percent of Trinidad voters approved it.

The November 2020 ballot will include a vote on the matter again. The City Council did not vote on a recommendation to city voters at the Webex meeting, again because communication was challenging. However this will be discussed again during the next meeting or two.

If you do not receive City meeting announcements via email (they always are posted at the post office and the Town Hall,) you can sign up for them by emailing [cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov) or call (707) 677-0223.

Email Patti at [baycity@sonic.net](mailto:baycity@sonic.net).



Pups enjoy a peanut butter party

Here is your doggie update for week five of shelter in place. It's a happy update!

The shelter population is at the lowest number that I have seen in the eight years that I have been involved in volunteering.

So far about 15 dogs have had the chance to spend time out of the shelter in a foster home and nine of those have been adopted.

Some of them only spent a night with a foster before being adopted, but we think that still gave them a boost of confidence before meeting their adopters.

Other dogs have been adopted before fosters even had a chance to take them out. The dogs that have been holding down the fort



back at the shelter have been having a pretty good time also.

Shelter staff have been letting them have group play in the center courtyard and some great friendships have been formed.

On one recent afternoon, they had a peanut butter party and the faces the dogs made were priceless! Follow their photos and stories on the Humboldt County Animal Shel-



ter Facebook page.

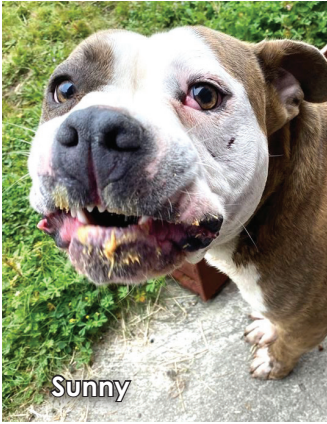
One young pup waiting for his forever home is Mickey. Mickey is identified as a lab mix and is guesstimated to be about 7 months old.

He is a very happy boy who loves his toys and his best friend Scooby! According to his human friends, Mickey is "a HAPPY, fun, energetic boy that will lean in for pets and eventually flop on his back for a belly rub. Mickey loves all sorts of toys and plays a pretty good game of fetch. Eager boy Mickey already knows sit and should be a lot of fun to teach him more!"

Mickey has been friendly in his encounters with cats, though his exuberance might be too much

for the shyer cats. Mickey is neutered, microchipped and current on his vaccinations.

He is available through the Humboldt County Animal Shelter. All adoption activities are by appointment only at this time so if you'd like to meet Mickey or any of his shelter buddies, please call (707) 840-9132 Monday through Friday.



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See crossword on page 2

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LEGAL NOTICES

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
**ANDREA SYLVESTER**  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
**CASE NO. CV200092**  
**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:**  
1. Petitioner has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name: **ANDREA SYLVESTER**  
to Proposed name: **ANDREA ANGELINA SILVESTRI**;  
2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court, located at 825 5th Street, Eureka, California, at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the application should not be granted. Any person objecting to

the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
Date: JUNE 26, 2020

Time: 1:45 p.m.  
Dept.: 4  
3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Mad River Union.  
Date: JAN. 21, 2020  
TIMOTHY A. CANNING  
Judge of the Superior

Court  
4/15, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6  
**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
20-00177  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MAD RIVER UNION**  
**791 EIGHTH ST. STE. 8**  
**ARCATA, CA 95521**  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
**JACK D. DURHAM**  
**791 EIGHTH ST. STE. 8**  
**ARCATA, CA 95521**  
**KEVIN L. HOOVER**

**791 EIGHTH ST. STE. 8**  
**ARCATA, CA 95521**  
THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY:  
A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP  
**S/JACK D. DURHAM**  
**EDITOR/PUBLISHER**  
This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on  
APRIL 15, 2020  
**KELLY E. SANDERS**  
**KT DEPUTY CLERK**  
4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
20-00169  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**ARCATA FOREST PRODUCTS**  
**105 ALDER GROVE ROAD**  
**ARCATA, CA 95521**  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
**ROBERT FIGAS**  
**115 REDMOND ROAD**  
**EUREKA, CA 95503**  
**KATHRYN FIGAS**  
**15 REDMOND ROAD**  
**EUREKA, CA 95503**

**ADAM FIGAS**  
**2378 GOLF COURSE ROAD**  
**BAYSIDE, CA 95524**  
THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY:  
A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP  
**S/ROBERT FIGAS**  
**PARTNER**  
This statement was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk on  
APRIL 10, 2020  
**KELLY E. SANDERS**  
**KT DEPUTY CLERK**  
4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13



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**1590 Nursery Rd. McKinleyville**

**BORING BOARDS** Local community event boards, previously festooned with flyers reflecting NoHum's vibrant cultural life, have been sadly depopulated by the coronavirus-caused societal shutdown, above right, at the Arcata Co-op and Murphy's Sunny Brae. But the colorful artwork of children has since restored life and imagination to the board at Murphy's.

PHOTOS BY KLH | UNION



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**ACE**  
**Home & Garden Center**

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As an essential business, McKinleyville Ace Home & Garden Center remains open to support the community. We are your trusted, local resource embedded in the community.

With increased demand for essential products and services, we plan to hire more workers to further support the community we serve when it needs it most. Full-time, part-time and seasonal positions are available.

McKinleyville Ace Home & Garden Center continues to prioritize the health and safety of its employees and customers by following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and practicing social distancing. Customers also have the option to buy online at [Acehardware.com](http://Acehardware.com) and select curbside pickup or delivery from McKinleyville Ace Home & Garden Center, limiting in-person contact. Use the Ace Hardware Store Locator to find more information on the location nearest you.

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